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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,461	10/16/2003	Yoshio Takada	B422-243	8871
26272	7590	09/30/2004	EXAMINER	
COWAN LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN P.C			PERKEY, WILLIAM B	
JOHN J TORRENTE			ART UNIT	
1133 AVE OF THE AMERICAS			2851	
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NEW YORK, NY 10017			DATE MAILED: 09/30/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/687,461

Applicant(s)

TAKADA, YOSHIO

Examiner

William B. Perkey

Art Unit

2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by White (U.S. Patent No. 624,142).

White discloses a rotor 1; first and second bearings 4 which have a tapered shape in order to receive the tapered ends 3 of the rotor 1. Element 5 is a biasing means.

3. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Nakagishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,068 B2).

Nakagishi discloses a rotor 50; a first bearing 51 and a second bearing 52. Both bearings have a tapered shape. See the first example Figs. 7-12. The embodiment in Fig. 13 shows a biasing means applying pressure to the bearing. Fig. 23 shows a semi-spherical shape at the contact end of bearing 101. Fig. 24 shows a reversal of parts for the upper bearing as compared to that in Fig. 23. Fig. 26 shows a reversal of the bearing parts from that of Fig. 9. Figs. 28 and 29 disclose a reversal of the coils and permanent magnets from the previous embodiments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 8-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the acknowledged Prior Art disclosed in applicants Figs. 6A and 6B in view of Nakagishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,068 B2).

Prior Art Fig. 6B discloses a rotor 102; a first bearing 101a; and second bearing 104a. The lever 102 is connected to a not shown light quantity adjusting device. The Fig. also discloses a Hall element to detect the position of the rotor. The acknowledged prior art discloses the claimed invention, except for the first bearing having a tapered shape. Nakagishi discloses a motor device for controlling a device that requires high stability. Tapered and semi-spherical bearings, some embodiments with biasing means for the bearings, are disclosed by Nakagishi to obtain high stability of undesired movements. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute improved bearings of tapered or semi-spherical shape, biased or unbiased, for the bearings of the acknowledged prior art in order to obtain the desirable feature of improved stabilization of the light quantity adjusting means.

Telephone Numbers

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William B. Perkey whose telephone number is (571) 272-2126. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



William B. Perkey
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2851

WBP:wbp